



The Liberty Agenda

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News & Upcoming Events Of
The Libertarian Party of West Michigan

One Million Votes For The Libertarian Party? (Editorial)

The National Libertarian Party has announced that Presidential Candidate Andre Marrou will be on the ballot in all 50 states and the District of Columbia for the 1992 election. The LP last attained this goal in 1980.

The Republicans and Democrats have created all kinds of hoops through which all non-Redemopublicrats must jump in order to get on the ballot in many states (most notably Hawaii, Oklahoma, and Florida). This requires a significant amount of time and money. Due to these obstacles, the LP must spend most of its money and volunteer effort in most states just toward ballot access. Money for campaign publicity can only be spent after ballot access has been achieved, and by this time not much money is usually left in the presidential campaign war chest (and the volunteers are all but worn out).

In addition, the popular media typically give very little (if any) coverage to alternative candidates. The candidates from the two older parties receive most of their publicity from free coverage by the media - something that Andre Marrou simply does not get. As a result, voters know next to nothing about Marrou's positions on and proposals regarding issues of current concern.

The LPWM has received many questions along the lines of the following: "Why is your presidential candidate Andre Marrou keeping such a low profile? Why isn't he campaigning?"

The unexpected answer is this: Andre Marrou is campaigning full time in most of the United States (as is Dr. Nancy Lord, our vice-presidential candidate) and is conducting media interviews constantly. Marrou has received some coverage by local media (yet practically nothing when compared to the daily coverage of the statist candidates). National media coverage has been virtually nonexistent. In the recent presidential debates, Marrou was purposely excluded by the sponsoring organization.

In 1988, about 650,000 people voted for the LP presidential candidate (Dr. Ron Paul). This year, some LP analysts are projecting that more than 1 million people will vote for Andre Marrou, despite the independent candidacy of H. Ross Perot.

There are about 200 Libertarians serving at local and state levels around the country. Four years ago that number was just under a hundred. The presence of the Libertarian Party in advocating liberty will continue to grow at the local and state levels, and the influence of our ideas is beginning to be felt at the federal level. It's only a matter of time before the LP arrives in Congress (maybe even this year!).

I will be one of the 1 million people who vote for Andre Marrou. I

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You Owe \$16,000! (I'll Bet You Didn't Even Know It.)

In cooperation with each other, the Redemopublicrats have spent so much that we now have a national debt of almost \$4,000,000,000,000 (that's \$4 trillion). This calculates to about \$16,000 debt for every child, woman, and man in the country, or about \$64,000 for the average U.S. family.

You thought the so-called capitalist greed of the '80s was supposed to be bad! We should make the hypocritical politicians discuss their actions with regard to phasing out deficit spending by the federal government. Don't allow them to rest on their lip action alone. Deeds are what are important, and, so far, we have seen very little in the way of real deeds from any of the Redemopublicratic politicians, including that president whose lips everyone finds difficult to read.

The only deeds they have shown us is the enacting of legislation to increase the confiscation of our hard-earned money (a.k.a. *taxation*), always telling us that the reason for doing so is to help eliminate the deficit. Isn't it odd that every time taxes are increased, the annual deficit gets bigger? We believe this is an oddity that we would all be better off without.

There are, indeed, several ways to reduce taxation and eliminate deficit spending at the same time, among them: implementation of the 1979 Grace Commission spending cuts, reduction of overseas military forces, and attrition of government bureaucracy through federal hiring freezes.

Critics make the obtuse claim that this would result in large increases in unemployment, thus losing sight of the forest due to the trees in their way. They fail to make the obvious distinction between those who work in the productive sector (helping to create wealth) and those who work in the government sector (acting as a drain and drag on the economy). We need to decrease the size of government both relatively and absolutely. Workers need to be shifted from government bureaucracy to the market.

Deficit spending has already made large economic dislocations. Payments on the federal debt account for about 37% of current federal revenue. The federal government has been

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Libertarian Party Candidates in West Michigan

National

President Andre Marrou
Vice President Dr. Nancy Lord

Congressional

2nd District Dick Jacobs
3rd District Dick Whitelock
7th District Kenneth Proctor

State Board of Education

Statewide Dr. Mary Ruwart

State House of Representatives

74th District Jim Pruitt
76th District Mike Gillman

Kent County Commission

10th District Glenn Barr
18th District Ryan Baughan

Pass Liberty Along!

The candidate information that has been mailed with this newsletter is for your use. We encourage you to make copies and distribute them to your friends.

Are you voting Libertarian? Put in a word for the Libertarian Party with your family and friends. Sometimes a word is all it takes. Be a branch, and help extend the tree!

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Libertarian In 7th Congressional District Race

Kenneth Proctor is one of only two contenders for the new 7th Congressional district seat. Ken, like many Libertarian candidates, supports term limits, campaign spending limits, and the elimination of PAC contributions. He favors educational choice and increasing local control of public schools. He also supports the reform of health care regulations and strong laws against industrial polluters.

Ken has lived in Eaton County for the past 16 years and is a Vietnam veteran and a member of the National Rifle Association. You can contact Ken at (517) 543-7297 for more information.



A Big "Thank You!" To Our Contributors

Our job would be extremely difficult (if not altogether impossible) without the monetary support of our contributors. We are very grateful to the following individuals who have made donations to the LPWM this year:

Ken Aardema
Michael Aernouts
Glenn A. Barr
Ryan Baughan
Greg Buben
Margaret Cartwright
Jim Edwards
Mike Fossel
Betty Gillman
Mike & Kim Gillman
Richard Gonce
Todd & Sharon Greene

Erwin Haas
Bill & Vicki Hall
Baird Hawkins
Cloyd Howard
Dick Jacobs
James Lipman
Hugh Prager
Jim & Heidi Pruitt
Kevin Roberts
Chuck & Jessie Seven
Dick Whitelock

Thank you very much!!!

Federal Spending Must Be Cut

Federal spending and federal taxation are connected. We must reduce spending to reduce taxes.

Unfortunately, the United States government has expanded its operations and spending far beyond the original constitutional plan. No matter what the subject, there is some group which wants government to regulate or it, and there are always those in congress eager to take over more power and control. But it is impossible to get something for nothing. The government produces no goods, so it can hand out favors to some people only by taking the earnings and property of others first.

In recent years the government has attempted to hide its expensive meddling by forcing private organizations and businesses to adopt certain expensive programs, rather than have the government implement them directly. These programs are no less costly nor less intrusive than if they were adopted directly by the government.

Libertarians join with the vast majority of Americans in calling for a smaller, less expensive, less meddlesome government. The following are some first steps in the process of bringing federal government spending under control:

1. Place the federal budget under a "cap" at current levels. Any increase in spending on any project must be accompanied by an equal or greater reduction in other spending.
2. Phase out spending on aid to foreign governments and international organizations such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.
3. Phase out federal subsidies to all businesses such as the tobacco industry, the maritime industry, agriculture, or the military-industrial complex.
4. End federal subsidy programs to state and local governments. These programs merely take taxes out of the community and then send the money back, minus the amounts consumed by the government bureaucrats who administer them.
5. End all federally mandated programs forced on individuals, organizations, and businesses.

**Editor
Todd Greene**

(DEFICITS, from page 1 / column 2)

deficit spending every year since 1961, except for 1969. And the current \$4 trillion debt figure does not include other federal obligations amounting to trillions of dollars such as unfunded pension plans, unfunded social security accounts, and loan and credit guarantees. Who of the Redemopublicrats is working toward reduced federal spending? We are lucky to find any who are even interested in reducing the rate at which they increase government spending.

The Libertarian Party has consistently advocated balanced federal budgets and lower taxes since its 1971 founding. Libertarians in office have consistently worked toward these goals, a compliment that can be paid to very few Redemopublicrats. **The deficit merry-go-round will either come to a smooth, controlled halt if we force the politicians to work hard toward braking it. If we do not, we are the ones who will suffer.**



(VOTES, from page 1 / column 1)

know that the trend of our country's government is wrong. I refuse to waste my vote on the older parties. My vote will be counted with the only party where individual liberty really matters any more. My vote will be counted with the growing number of people who recognize that a vote for the older parties is a wasted vote.

Are you ready to vote for what you believe in rather than voting as if you were betting on a horse race? Do you regard individual liberty as an important and necessary social value? Do you believe that families and communities should have more control than the federal government over their members' lives and destinies? If you do, then make your vote count. Join me on November 3 and vote for the Libertarian Party!



Taxes: The Cruellest Burden

One of the Libertarian Party's goals is to replace taxation with voluntary methods for financing government services.

The government uses force to collect taxes. If you don't pay taxes voluntarily, your property may be seized and you may be imprisoned. Our earnings and property are taken by force if we don't cooperate. If any organization or person other than our government tried this, we would call it stealing. If it is wrong for private citizens to take others' property, it is wrong when government does it. Private citizens and companies would be called criminals for using such methods, so it must be criminal for our government to do it.

When taxation takes money or property from private citizens and transfers it to government, economic productivity declines. Employers cannot expand, businesses fail, and jobs are lost. We have seen this repeatedly, particularly during the past 77 years since the federal income tax was introduced. Even successful businesses must pass on the cost of taxes to consumers. Everyone loses except the government.

Experience shows that government is inefficient. Most government services can be provided better by private businesses, private charities, and other community organizations.

To begin the process of replacing taxation with voluntary financing of government activities, we propose the following:

1. Neither Congress nor any state legislature should create any new tax or increase any tax rate from this day forward.
2. A "sunset" provision should be added to every tax statute. Such a provision would end the particular tax after two years unless it is re-enacted.
3. The U. S. Constitution and the state constitutions should be amended to provide for a binding initiative process where the voters can repeal any tax by majority vote.
4. Tax money should no longer subsidize any government service which can possibly be provided in the private sector.

(excerpted from the *Libertarian Party*
1992 Program, adopted 8/28/91)

Ballot Proposal Recommendations

Proposal A: Limits annual increases in homestead property tax assessments and provide separate tax limitations for different property classifications.

Proposal A limits annual assessment increases to 5% or the rate of inflation, whichever is less. It applies only to "homestead" property, which is property that is the primary residence of the owner. Businesses, especially smaller businesses that really need property tax relief, are left out in the cold.

In addition, whenever the property is sold, the assessment is adjusted upward to what the assessor thinks it "should be," regardless of the "lesser of 5% or inflation" rule. As has already happened in California (where the editor lived for 6 years), this would lead to greatly disparate property taxes being paid even by owners of adjacent, equally valued property. This will further restrict home ownership for young families considering buying their first homes and for those on fixed incomes who want to move.

A similar proposal, Proposal C (next), is superior to this one. We recommend: **Vote NO on Proposal A.**

Proposal C (Cut & Cap): Exempts property from a portion of school operating property taxes and limits annual increases in all property tax assessments.

Proposal C provides for consistent property tax relief (for businesses and residences) and limits annual assessment increases to 3% or the rate of inflation, whichever is lower (the *cap*). These two characteristics make it much better than Proposal A.

In addition, Proposal C exempts property from a proportion of school operating property taxes in the following way: 10% in 1993, 15% in 1994, 20% in 1995, 25% in 1996, and 30% thereafter (the *cut*).

This proposal also requires the state to make up for the revenue lost to public schools as a result of the cut (not the *cap*). We think this is a significant drawback, for two reasons: (1) The schools are greatly overpaid anyway and simply need to have their spending levels cut, period. (2) This shifts more control away from the local level to the state - a hazardous move, to say the least.

Also such a large increase in state spending would lead to our legislators pushing for more increases in the state income tax (when was the last time, they advocated a spending cut in one area to balance an increase in another? Huh? Huh?).

Because property tax relief is so badly needed in Michigan, we think it's a terrible shame our choices this time around have come down to Proposals A & C. Proposal C is tempting because of its cut & cap characteristics, but it is fraught with future risk. We strongly wish more had been done to assure that we didn't just end up getting gouged elsewhere while at the same time losing more local control over what is supposed to be a community service. This quandary leads us to: **No Recommendation on Proposal C.**

Proposal D: Amends Michigan's auto insurance laws.

Proponents of Proposal D claim, among other things, that auto insurance rates would be reduced by an average of 20% for policy holders who purchase only the minimum of \$250,000 in personal injury protection. Don't hold your breath! A proposal to reduce auto insurance rates was passed a few years ago in California - insurance companies wrangled with it in courts for over almost two years, and drivers ultimately saw little in the way of rate rollbacks.

This proposal is fairly complex in its ramifications, and we should be wary of it for this reason alone.

Proposal D is a strange one for a Libertarian. Auto

insurance (and insurance in general) is so heavily regulated and controlled by government in the first place, that it's hard for a Libertarian to be either for or against simply fiddling around with the laws. We want wholesale reform of government regulation with regard to auto insurance. From this perspective, Proposal D seems like just another move in a shell game.

Do we think auto insurance is overpriced? Yes. Do we think Proposal D helps in this regard? Hmm... **No Recommendation on Proposal D.**

Proposal B: Limits the number of times a person can be elected to congressional, state executive, and state legislative offices.

Proposal B would limit terms in the following manner:

U.S. Senator: two 6-year terms in any 24-year period.

U.S. Representative: three 2-year terms in any 12-year period.

Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, & Attorney General: 2 times per office.

State Senator: 2 times.

State Representative: 3 times.

We can't say enough in favor of Proposal B. A recent study showed that incumbents receive 9 times the PAC money received by challengers. You can't tell me that special interest group money doesn't buy elections, because I know better!

We desperately need to return to the concept of the citizen legislature, where people go into elective office on a temporary basis. (We also need to go back to the part-time legislature, but that's another issue!) This idea of the career politician stinks! These people need to return to the private sector where they will have to live with the laws they pass, rather than living in the increasingly rarified environment of Congress and the State Legislature where they frequently exempt themselves from the laws everyone else is required to follow. (Since they apparently understand how bad the laws are for them, then why in the universe do they think the laws are good for the rest of us?!).

In addition, these people give themselves undeserved raises and create for themselves extremely generous pension plans (all funded involuntarily by us taxpayers). Believe me, the often criticized free market learns its lessons on greed from the governmental source!

The argument that Proposal B is not good because it would force us to lose representatives that we thought were good doesn't hold water. No representative, however good she or he might be, holds a monopoly on whatever characteristics are so desired by voters that they cannot elect someone else who also has the desired characteristics. Besides, in real life (rather than in this criticism's realm of hypothesis), our problem is that too many mediocre, poor, or downright rotten politicians stay in office - not that too many good ones leave.

And there's the related criticism that we would be kicking out our good representatives after they had built up experience. Sorry to break the bubble, but this is precisely the problem that we have now and that Proposal B will solve. We don't *want* these people to become "experienced" politicians. We want them to return to real life, where they must discover the consequences of their actions. In our experience, we have not seen it demonstrated that experience in a political office makes one well suited to serve in government. In fact, we think the opposite is true.

For all of these reasons - and many more - we wholeheartedly and unreservedly recommend: **Vote YES on Proposal B.**

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BECOME AN LPWM MEMBER

To become a member of the Libertarian Party of West Michigan, you need only affirm the following statement:

"I hereby certify that I do not believe in nor do I advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving social or political goals."

Signature _____

No donation is required for membership. However, your voluntary donation is requested in order to provide funds for the operating expenses of the LPWM (such as newsletter production/mailling expenses, inquiry packet literature costs & mailing expenses, stationery, etc.)

Check either or both:

- ☐ I want to be a member of the LPWM
- ☐ I want to help the LPWM with my donation of
(circle one) \$100 \$50 \$25 \$15 Other _____

(The IRS requires us to tell you that "contributions are not tax deductible.")

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